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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (GORN Oblast)

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SUBJECT Pravdinsk Airfield
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July 1944 to November 1948

1. The PRAVDINSK (43°32'E/56°32'N) airfield was located about 2 miles northwest of the railroad station and about 3 miles west of the Volga river (see Annex). The 5,000 x 6,000-foot field was surrounded by a woods and had 2 concrete runways (P-6).
2. Since there were no air force quarters in the town, the airfield personnel was assumed to be quartered at the airfield or in its vicinity.*
3. Twenty-five fighters and two trainers were parked in the open at the field:
 - a. Fighters: Single-engine single-seat craft, retractable landing gear with rounded wing tips, rigid tail wheel.
 - b. Trainers: Single-engine biplanes, radial engines, two-place craft, fixed landing gear.
4. Observed flying:
 - a. Firing from the fighters at towed sleeves.
 - b. Formation flying with 2, 4, 8, and 20 fighters flying close together.
 - c. Night flying, several fighters pursuing an aircraft illuminated by several searchlights. Multi-colored light signals were dropped.
 - d. Individual parachute jumps from biplanes.
5. Officers and NCO's (wearing war decorations) and EM; younger classes were mostly observed.

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September to November 1947

6. There was an airfield about 3 miles northwest of the PRAVDINSK paper mill, occupied by fighters.

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Comment:

Report on the flying observed near PRAVDINSK confirmed that fighter units, probably assigned to the PVO (Air Defense) were still being trained in so-called "bright night fighting" operations. The described aircraft type with rigid tail wheel may have been the Yak-1 or the Yal 7b, since the observations date back as far as 1944. More recent information is desired in order to clarify the performance of the Soviet fighter units in night fighting operations.

1 Annex: Airfield of PRAVDINSK, Gorki Oblast

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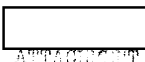
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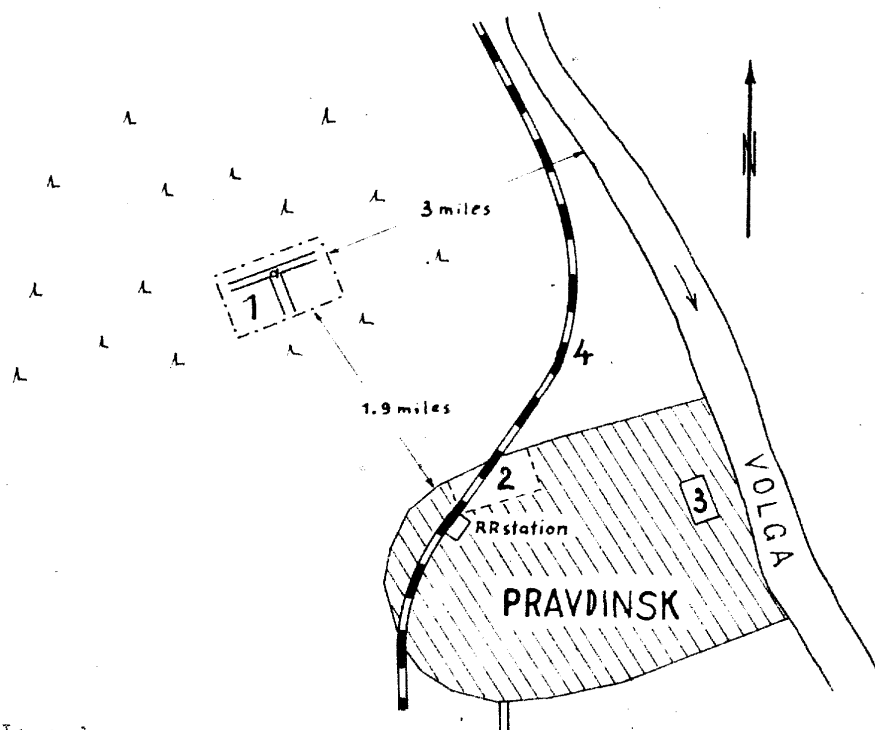
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Airfield of PRAYDINSK, Gorki Oblast

ATTACHMENT



Legend:

- 1 Airfield
- 2 Building site
- 3 Paper mill
- 4 Newly constructed railway line

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